

Life Beyond the Grave?

Promise of "Life Everlasting" Communication With Departed as Manifestations of Psychic Evil Spirits and Magic

The Bible's Repeated Assertions of Satan and His Occult Forces for Evil

THAT there was a spirit of evil recognized in Scripture is plainly evidenced, even from the earliest chapters in the Bible. When evil first makes its entry into the world, temptation is personified only in the serpent.

There is no other mention of this personality until the book of Job, where we read of Satan or the "Adversary." Israel in its exile into Babylon had learned something of the Persian myths of Ormuzd and Ahri-

man, the conflicting forces for good and evil.

But scholars claim that Satan in Job is little like Ahri-man, for he plays too subordinate a part. It is not until the New Testament that the power and influence of Satan are brought into bold relief. He is shown first as the "Tempter" of Jesus on the mount, and then appears all through the Gospels, Epistles and the Apocalypse.

There are comparatively few details in Scripture as to what the theologians call his "nature" and "original state." In Ephesians ii., 2, he is called "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." In Matthew xii., 24-26, he is spoken of as "prince of the devils," which may be cast out by Jesus, and in Matthew xxv., 41, as having angels subject to him.

He is believed to exercise his power over mankind, either directly or through his instruments or demons. It is as a leader of a host of bad angels, "fallen from grace," for whom an everlasting fire is prepared" (Matt., xxv., 41), that he most frequently assaults the righteous. These fallen angels are directly identified with the "devils" or "demons" who had power to possess the souls of men (Matt., xii., 24-26).

Satan is also called "prince of this world" in John, xii., 31, and even "god of this world" in 2 Cor., iv., 4. It has been said in summing up the Biblical idea of Satan by Hastings: "The ultimate and fundamental truth of angelology and demonology has not been and never can be destroyed by the march of modern science."

The assumption that other superhuman as well as subordinate agencies are at work, and that some of these are embodiments of evil influence, adds no fundamental difficulty to those which already exist. Now it is a matter of historic notoriety that some personalities have lived in this world that might be called incarnations of evil influence.

The supposition that other and superhuman personalities may also be foci of evil moral energy, and operate like ganglionic centres in a nervous system, presents no fundamental difficulty in addition to the difficulty already involved in the problem of evil. That Satan exists as a personal centre of evil influence, physical as well as moral (for the two are closely associated), is the undoubted teaching of the Bible. He is represented to us not as the absolute origin of evil, or the only source of it, but as its most potent superhuman representative."

Print of an Armed Christian and the Devil



Psychic Research Into Psychic Mysteries

magic and commerce with the spirits. Only the ignorant classes and persons of an unusually credulous disposition cling to them. It must be said that the latter were always numerous even in the highest classes. Queen Marie Antoinette at the end of the eighteenth century fell under the control of a magician, and to-day the Czar of Russia is said to be greatly influenced by a monk who professes to foresee the future.

By the middle of the nineteenth century modern science had apparently crushed ancient magic and all that went with it. The very word "magician," which once struck terror to the mind was given to entertainers who produced rabbits and bowls of gold fish out of somebody's hat. Science had then reached a state that was most hostile to anything magical or occult or spiritistic.

But since then an enormous change has taken place. Science has found that there are methods of communication other than those of our known senses. Invisible forces can reproduce the human voice. Messages fly through the air round the world. In fact, everything that the most fantastic magicians pretended to do has been accomplished by the most matter-of-fact scientists.

The result has been a considerable revival in modern society of a literal acceptance of the old magic, together with an open-minded attitude on the part of serious scientists toward occult and psychic phenomena. Professors of the ancient magic are going on with their rituals in New York and other world cities, with all the mysterious and gawdies accompaniments of other days, surrounded by a throng of devout initiates. There are even educated persons who believe that an "elemental" or a disembodied spirit may be reincarnated with the help of fresh, warm blood. Such an episode is described in a recent very popular book of short stories by an English writer.

It was the discovery of electricity that first started the modern mind on its reversion to the old beliefs. Here is a force that is invisible, intangible, imponderable and yet is capable of exerting the most tremendous powers, of taking life and destroying every work of human hands. Here is a power that accomplishes practically everything that had been claimed by the old magic.

The more the powers of electricity were revealed the more did it appear like a mighty magician that could accomplish any miracle and send its commands to any part of the universe. Its various applications strengthened this idea, and today it is a commonplace idea with everybody that we are destined to see endless new uses of electricity.

The telephone was only one of many new inventions that were suggestive of ancient magic and yet were free from fraud. It is well known that the priests of the Egyptian temples and other wonder-workers created the most awe-inspiring effects on their followers by producing a human voice where no person appeared to be. This, of course, is just what the telephone does, and it has been suggested that some of the ancients may have known the principle of this invention.

Then came the invention of wireless telegraphy, due largely to the researches of Sir Oliver Lodge, who has since become the strongest scientific believer in psychic phenomena. By this use of electricity vibrations are caused to flow completely round the world, carrying messages without hindrance over mountains, deserts and all natural obstructions. This was, of course, a great marvel as any that the ancient magicians ever pretended to achieve.

Scientific wonders began to come so fast that it would be impossible to catalogue them. The X-rays, which enable one to see through a solid object, accomplished exactly the same kind of miracle that is described in "The Arabian Nights." This discovery was largely due to Sir William Crookes, who most significantly has become like Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the sci-

tific believers in the possibility of communicating with the dead. All these discoveries—the electric current, the telephone, the X-rays, wireless telegraphy, all the mysterious, intangible vibrations that are now known to pervade the universe, have a very obvious relation to the problem of communicating with the dead or with "the unseen spirits of the air."

Is it not reasonable to argue that the human spirit, which appears to be a form of electricity, will continue to exist apart from its gross material body?

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone and perhaps the most distinguished of American scientists, has recently stated most interestingly some of the possibilities that arise from the newly-discovered etheric vibrations.

"Many recent scientific discoveries, in my opinion," he said, "point to a day, not far distant perhaps, when men will read one another's thoughts, when thoughts will be conveyed directly from brain to brain without intervention of speech, writing or any of the present known methods of communication."

"I can imagine, as I have already told the electrical engineers, men with coils of wire about their heads communicating thought to one another by induction."

"It is a speculation, of course. I cannot fill in all the details at present. If I could, I should not be simply chatting about it, but would be helping to manufacture apparatus. A hundred reasons point to the end I have in mind, but there is a large gap to be bridged over before the end is reached."

"It is not unreasonable to look forward to a time when we shall see without eyes, hear without ears and talk without tongues."

"Speculation of this character has a legitimate value to science. It may help the individual worker to achieve his object and it stimulates interest and enthusiasm in others. No man ever made a great scientific discovery without imagining the end to be achieved before he had worked out the preliminary details."

"Briefly, the hypothesis that mind can communicate directly with mind rests on the theory that thought or vital force is a form of electrical disturbance, that it can be taken up by induction and transmitted to a distance either through a wire or simply through the all-pervading ether, as in the case of wireless telegraph waves."

"There are many analogies that suggest that thought is of the nature of an electrical disturbance. A nerve which is of the same substance as the brain is an excellent conductor of the electric current. When we first passed an electric current through the nerves of a dead man we were shocked and amazed to see him sit up and move. The electrified nerves produced contraction of the muscles very much as in life."

"The nerves appear to act upon the muscles very much as the electric current acts upon an electro-magnet. The current magnetizes a bar of iron placed at right angles to it and the nerves produce, through the intangible current of vital force that flows through them, contraction of the muscular fibres that are arranged at right angles to them."

"It would be possible to cite many reasons why thought and vital force may be regarded as of the same nature as electricity. The electric current is held to be a wave motion of the ether, the hypothetical substance that fills all space and pervades all substances. We believe that there must be ether, because without it the electric current could not pass through a vacuum or sunlight through space. It is reasonable to believe that only a wave motion of a similar character can produce the phenomena of thought and vital force. We may assume that the brain cells act as a battery and that the current produced flows along the nerves."

"But does it end there? Does it not pass out of the body in



Dore's Illustration in Dante's Inferno—"There stood I like the friar that doth shew a wretch for murder doomed."

waves which flow round the world unperceived by our senses, just as the wireless waves passed unperceived before Hertz and others discovered their existence?

"This, then, is my thought, that every man is sending out from his mind vibrations of enormous rapidity and infinitesimal wave-length that pass completely round the earth and would reveal his thoughts, if there were some way of perceiving them or recording them."

"It is remarkable that nearly all our recent steps in science have had to do with discoveries of new vibrations. Suppose you have the power to make an iron rod vibrate with any desired frequency in a dark room. At first, when vibrating slowly, its movement will be indicated by only one sense, that of touch. As soon as the vibrations increase, a low sound will emanate from it and it will appeal to two senses."

"At about 32,000 vibrations to the second the sound will be loud and shrill, but at 40,000 vibrations it will be silent and its movements will not be perceived by touch. Its movements will be perceived by no ordinary human sense."

"From this point up to about 1,500,000 vibrations per second we have no sense that can appreciate any effect of the intervening vibrations. After that stage is reached its movement is indicated first by the sense of temperature and then, when the

rod becomes red hot, by the sense of sight. At 3,000,000 it sheds violet light. Above that it passes into the ultra-violet rays and other invisible radiations, some of which can be perceived by instruments and employed by us."

"Now it has occurred to me that there must be a great deal to be learned about the effect of those vibrations in the great gap where the ordinary human senses are unable to hear, see or feel the movement."

While men engaged in natural and applied sciences have made so many discoveries that border on the miraculous, philosophers and psychologists have begun to form new conceptions of the human mind and spirit.

What was once known as spiritualism has become psychical research. Scholars and scientists of the highest position believe either in the possibility of communicating with the dead or at least that the phenomena of the subject should be investigated. Dr. James H. Hyslop gave up his position as a professor of philosophy in Columbia University to devote his life to this work. William James, the most famous of American psychologists, was inclined toward the end of his life to believe in the possibility of communicating with the departed.

In fact, the whole world is showing deep interest in what would once have been called magic or miraculous.

Incense, Incantations and Ancient Magic

FROM the earliest times men have endeavored to get in touch with the spirits of the unseen world. From the earliest times magicians and masters of Black Art have formulated ceremonials and sacrificial rites to call to their aid these spirit powers—sometimes the arts of magic have been used for good and often for evil.

One of the best known modern mystics, who is at present in New York, is an Englishman, known as Aleister Crowley, who has been a life-long student of occult mysteries and forces. For a long time Mr. Crowley lived in Paris, and from time to time he will disappear, only to bob up again in Zaptan, Tall Fu, Askole, Hambantota or Ouled Djellal. To him a long journey is an achievement, a satisfying thing in itself. Like the hidden knowledge which he is forever in search of. In 1900 he explored Mexico without guide. Two years later he spent three months in India at an altitude of 20,000 feet. In 1908 he crossed China on foot. The success of his magic drama, "The Rites of Eleusis," in 1910, in London, did not tempt him to settle down there for long, as he was next heard of in the heart of the Sahara.

As a naked Yogi he has sat for days, he says, under the Indian sun begging his rice. Like every true magician he has experimented with hundreds of strange poisons in order to discover the Elixir of Life and the Elixir of Vision. He has devoted much time, he says, to the art of materializing divine influences, which, he says, does by the aid of secret incenses, of invocations and of rituals inherited from the Gnostics and Rosicrucians. He once masqueraded through a Cairo season as a mysterious Persian prince, he says.

Speaking of magic and the power of unseen forces, Mr. Crowley recently said that his magic had prophesied the present world war. He said:

"A magician evokes a particular spirit by a special ceremonial rite. He works for a given result and does not, like the spiritist, wait for some spirit to turn up and become the slave of whatever does turn up. Once within his magic circle the magician is master. The spirits must obey. What follows believe or not, as you please."

"It was in London. Three of us—myself, a British naval

officer of high rank and a famous violinist—decided to evoke the spirit of Mars. By Mars we don't mean the planet in the sky at all; we mean the hidden forces that possess the powers we attribute to Mars. Also we performed no sacrifice. In the old days when the Israelites went out to give battle they would sacrifice an animal, but nowadays it is not necessary to shed blood. You use the proper incense and the beings you want materialize from the smoke."

"As we were going to evoke the spirit of Mars I used a blood-red robe and wore the crown of the Uraeus serpent and armed myself with the sword and the spear. My two assistant Magi were clad in white and gold."

"Around the altar we had traced a large circle, ample in size to contain the three of us. And then, following the ancient rites, we consecrated the spear and then the sword, and then the altar and lastly the magic circle itself. So long as we remain inside that circle no harm could come to us. Once we were secure we conjured the Dog of Evil, just as the minister exorcises the spirits of evil before laying the foundation stones of a church, and having done that we bound ourselves by a great oath to the purposes of the ceremony. That is one of the most important things."

"And as the clouds of incense rose from the altar we lifted up our voices and praised the God of Battle. We invoked the Egyptian God Horus and called upon Elohim Gebor to aid us. And then as I felt the power within me grow I commanded the blind spirit Bartzebel to come forth."

"The dark clouds of incense slowly took form, and standing without the circle a sexless, ox-like form appeared, with dull, deceitful head and hideous human features suffused with blood. It stood panting, its heart beating violently, and in a deep, hoarse voice it answered my question. It said that in less than five years there would be two wars, and prophesied that the greatest of the two would end by the crushing of Germany."

The picture of Mr. Crowley on this page shows him in the regalia of a mystic order, and his hands and thumbs are bent in the form of a secret sign of the horns. This secret sign is similar to one used by devil-worshippers, the thumbs representing the horns of the devil.